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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,922	06/19/2003	Darko Segota	11023.4	6224

7590 09/08/2004

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EXAMINER

WHITE, DWAYNE J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3745

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/600,922	SEGOTA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Dwayne J White	3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-9,11-17 and 19-47 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4,10 and 18 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/19/04

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,3,5-7,11-17,19-21, 25-38, 41, 42, 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fertis et al. (4,606,519). Fertis et al. disclose an airfoil comprising: a frontal surface 13 that leads through a fluid; a first surface 22 relating with the frontal surface that receives fluid flow thereon; a second surface 21 opposite the first surface, relating with the frontal surface and receiving fluid; an airfoil tip 12; and at least one fluid flow regulator 20 integrally formed and operable on the first surface comprising a leading edge, a trailing edge and a pressure recovery drop extending between the leading edge and the trailing edges to form a down step, the recovery drop comprising at least one drop face 24. The flow regulator is positioned perpendicular to the direction of flow and is formed in a linear fashion and has an orthogonal design. Fertis et al. further discloses the fluid flow regulator being used in various lifting body forms (Column 7, lines 45-56). It is the position of the Examiner that since the structure of the fluid flow regulator of the Fertis et al. is the same as the fluid flow regulator of the instant invention, a sub-atmospheric barrier would be generated as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-17, 19-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fertis et al. in view Falco (5,133,519). Fertis et al. disclose all of the claimed subject matter except the fluid flow regulator being dynamic.

Falco teaches an active fluid flow regulator wherein the actuator 25 regulated the height of the drop face in relation to sensor 28 data (Column 4, lines 6-33). Since both Fertis et al. and Falco are related to fluid flow regulation for surfaces, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the fluid flow regulator of Fertis et al., with the teachings of Falco, by providing an dynamic element to the regulator for the purpose of improving fluid flow properties.

CONCLUSION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 10 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dwayne J White whose telephone number is (703) 306-3464. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am to 5 pm T-F and alternate Mondays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look can be reached on (703) 308-1044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dwayne J. White
Dwayne White
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3745

DJW

Edward K. Look
EDWARD K. LOOK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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9/7/04